

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SMS-01 SAA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6643
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 21726

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON CAMP DAVID: RESTRAINED
CRITICISM

REF: MOSCOW 21304 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF CAMP DAVID
MEETING HAS REMAINED HEAVY IN VOLUME AND CRITICAL
IN TONE ALTHOUGH THIS CRITICISM HAS BEEN EXPRESSED
IN RELATIVELY MODERATE TERMS. TYPICAL OF RECENT
ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED DAILY IN SOVIET
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PRESS WAS MIDDLE PORTION OF SEPT. 10 PRAVDA
"INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN BY M. PODKLYUCHNIKOV.
MAJOR THEMES OF PODKLYUCHNIKOV'S ARTICLE INCLUDE:

-- PESSIMISTIC EVALUATION OF SADAT'S POLICY
INITIATIVES AND EQUALLY PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF POSSIBLE
SUCCESS OF CAMP DAVID "RESCUE OPERATION";

-- IDEA THAT U.S. IS PURSUING ITS OWN "EGOISTIC GOALS" IN M.E. RATHER THAN SEEKING JUST SETTLEMENT. U.S. INTEREST IN MILITARY PRESENCE IN M.E. IS PUT IN THIS CONTEXT AND NOW STANDARD WARNING IS REPEATED ABOUT INABILITY OF SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN REGION IN DIRECT PROXIMITY TO SOVIET BORDERS;

-- STATEMENT THAT JUST SETTLEMENT IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. GENEVA CONFERENCE IS SAID TO RETAIN ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS REGARD DESPITE ALLEGED EFFORTS BY CAMP DAVID PARTICIPANTS TO "TORPEDO" IT.

2. COMMENT: WHILE SOVIETS HAVE LEFT NO DOUBT IN THEIR MEDIA OF THEIR CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, THEY HAVE SHOWN A CERTAIN RESTRAINT IN EXPRESSING THIS CRITICISM. OTHER THAN GROMYKO'S SEPT. 5 LUNCHEON SPEECH REMARKS TO VISITING GREEK FON. MIN. RALLIS (REFTEL), THERE HAS NOT BEEN A DEFINITIVE SOVIET STATEMENT ON CAMP DAVID SINCE THE MEETING STARTED. PERSONAL VITUPERATION HAS NOT BEEN USED -- EXCEPT AS APPLIED BY SOME ARAB LEADERS TO SADAT -- AND THE DIRECT ROLE
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OF THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT BEEN EXPLICITLY CRITICIZED. WHETHER THIS GLOVES-ON APPROACH WILL LONG SURVIVE THE CONCLUSION OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO BE A FACTOR AT THE MOMENT. GARRISON

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